

ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE

DADLY DAMAGED BY FIRE

INDEX DIMENSIONED BY TIME

THE UNITED STATES LIGHT COMPANY'S PLANT

Many of the Dynamos and Switch Boards
Burned Out.

WHOLE CITY PLUNGED IN DARKNESS

No Incandescent Lights to Be Had for Several Weeks.

LOSS ABOUT SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS

Crossing of Two Wires of Heavy Voltage Supposed
to Have Started the Blaze—Fire Had Gain-
ed Great Headway When Discovered:

The United States Electric Light and every effort was made to keep the

Power house, at Thirteenth-and-a-half and B streets northwest, was partially destroyed by fire about 2.30 o'clock this morning, and more than one-half the city was thrown into total darkness. The blaze originated in the southeast corner of the old building, where there are a number of dynamos, the switchboards and regulators governing all of the incandescent and a portion of the city arc lights in the business and residential portions.

Fire had work they managed to confine the greater portion of the conflagration to the "A" or described.

This portion, however, was completely

The origin is not definitely known, but the theory of the electricians is that two large wires, carrying a heavy voltage, in some unexplainable manner became crossed, causing a spark and then a stream of electric fire, which ignited the insulator surrounding the wires, and from that the woodwork caught the blaze, which spread rapidly.

so that it had gained a good start before it was discovered.

There were fifty or more employees in the building, but the majority of them were in the engine and boiler rooms, and about the dynamo and machinery in other portions of the structure, which occupies almost the entire block surrounded by B and C and Thirteenth-and-a-half and Fourteenth streets. The building being brilliantly lighted the blaze was not discovered until it had gained a good headway, and then

the greatest damage was done to the dynamo in that portion of the structure. Several of these were totally destroyed by heat and fire, but the exact number could not be accurately ascertained at an early hour this morning. A rough estimate of the loss, however, places the damage in this neighborhood of \$60,000.

Super. Mumler was the only officer of the company at the scene of the fire this morning. He was just preparing to leave when the blaze originated, but he

attention was first attracted by the peculiar smell which results from a burning electric light wire.

A workman first saw the blaze and, with great presence of mind, rushed to the switchboards and turned off the current.

The loss to the public and the city, however, will be much greater. It is estimated that for several weeks yet there will be a shortage of either the loss or origin so costly.

lights, which plunges the city in darkness. There is a fire alarm box just outside the building, and a call was quickly turned in and then a second and

By this time, however, the fire had spread so that the entire southeastern portion of the city was thrown into intense darkness as soon as

tion of the building was a mass of flames. The fire ran along the live conduits and the currents were shut off, save where a effluvarium was known about the field.

of the building are a number of dynamos and a large number of the conduits containing innumerable wires.

As soon as the fire was discovered the engineers and firemen quickly pulled the

The firemen soon had several large streams of water playing upon the flames.

LIVELY KANSAS POPULISTS.	BATTLE WITH BURGLARS.
Democrat Holding \$50,000 for Next	Five of Them Expended 1200

Propose raising \$50,000 for next year's Campaign Purposes.

Topeka, Kans., Nov. 25.—The Populist organization in Kansas is probably the best-organized in the United States. Today Chairman Kiddle, of the State committee, commenced mailing notices to all

of the 600 State officers, assistants, members of the boards and employees at the various institutions of an assessment of 2 per cent of their annual income for campaign purposes.

The salaries of the 600 State employees will average \$500 each, making a total of \$300,000. Two per cent of this will not last long, but it will be followed by a direct assessment on each member of the party, the intention being to have for next year's campaign at least \$500,000.

Popular leaders say that no insurance companies, the school-book trust and other corporations which have suffered at the hands of a Populist legislature, will contribute to the Republican campaign in

Weather strips, the best made. The finest weather strips made

felt or rubber, only cent and a half a foot. cent and a half a foot. Felt or rubber.